

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIA-06 JUSE-00 SSO-00 SS-15 L-03 DHA-02

ORM-02 PRS-01 SCA-01 VO-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-07

CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 FBIE-00 SY-05 INSE-00 /061 W

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R 111630Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4477

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 2158

FOLLOWING MSG SENT ACTION BRASILIA 10 MAR 76 FROM SAO PAULO  
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION.

QTE

SAO PAULO 0538

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, SREF, BR, US, (KONDER, RODOLFO OSVALDO)

SUBJECT: POLITICAL ASYLUM: RODOLFO OSVALDO KONDER

1. YARA SANTISTEVAM, THE WIFE OF "VISAO" INTERNATIONAL EDITOR RODOLFO OSVALDO KONDER, HAS CONFIDENTIALLY INFORMED CONGEN AND USIS THAT KONDER "FLED" BRAZIL ILLEGALLY AT THE END OF CARNAVAL, HAVING SLIPPED ACROSS TO ARGENTINA AT FOZ DE IGUACU. SHE SAID THAT KONDER CONTINUED ON TO THE US BY AIR AND THAT HE IS NOW IN NEW YORK CITY WHERE HE HOPES TO TEACH AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN THE SAME "VISITING PROFESSOR" POSITION ONCE HELD BY ALBERTO DINIZ, NOW AN EDITOR OF FOLHA DE SAO PAULO. KONDER EVIDENTLY WAS IN POSSESSION OF A VALID VISA TO ENTER THE US. (HE RETURNED FROM AN ITT-SPONSORED STUDY TRIP IN THE US JUST PRIOR TO HIS ARREST LAST OCTOBER.) ACCORDING TO MS. SANTISTEVAM, KONDER DECIDED TO FLEE BRAZIL AFTER RECEIVING NUMEROUS THREATENING LETTERS FROM TWO RIGHT WING ORGANIZATIONS IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES AS THE "BRACO CLANDESTINO DA REPRESSAO" AND THE "MOVIMENTO ANTI-COMMUNISTA" WHO WERE, SHE SAID, PERSECUTING KONDER FOR HIS PUBLIC REVELATIONS AND DENUNCIATIONS OF TORTURES WHICH HE SUFFERED IN LATE 1975 WHILE A PRISONER OF THE SECOND  
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ARMY DOI. AS A RESULT OF THESE THREATS, KONDER FEARED FOR HIS

LIFE. MS. SANTISTEVAM SAID THAT THE BRAZILIAN SECURITY AUTHORITIES WOULD BE AWARE OF KONDER'S DISAPPEARANCE ON MARCH 8, SINCE HIS OBRIGATORY BI-MONTHLY CHECK IN WITH THE POLICE FELL DUE ON THAT DAY.

2. AS EMBASSY WILL RECALL, KONDER WAS ARRESTED BY COI/DOCI -2ND ARMY IN OCTOBER 1975 ALONG WITH OTHER JOURNALISTS, INCLUDING THE LATE VLADIMIR HERZOG. TWICE ON OCTOBER 25, KONDER WAS BROUGHT INTO HERZOG'S INTERROGATION ROOM IN AN ATTEMPT TO GET HERZOG TO ADMIT TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE PCB. A REPORT OFFTHIS CONFRONTATION WAS INCLUDED IN THE ARMY'S REPORT OF ITS INVESTIGATION OF HERZOG'S DEATH (RELEASED DECEMBER 20) AND IN SEPARATE TESTIMONY SWORN TO BY KONDER ON NOVEMBER 7 IN THE PRESENCE OF EIGHT DISTINGUISHED LAWYERS AND CITIZENS (SENT JANUARY 23, 1976, TO THE AUDITORIA MILITAR IN SAO PAULO).

3. MS. HAS INQUIRED INFORMALLY WHETHER SHE WOULD ENCOUNTER ANY PROBLEMS IN OBTAINING A VISA TO THE US. SHE HOPES TO TRAVEL IN MAY. (FYI: MS. SANTISTEVAM'S APPLICATION WILL BE COMPLICATED BY THE FACT THAT SHE IS NOT LEGALLY MARRIED TO KONDER IN BRAZIL UNDER BRAZILIAN LAW. SHE SAID KONDER WAS "DESQUITADO" FROM HIS FIRST WIFE AND MARRIED SANTISTEVAM IN VOLIVIA FOUR YEARS AGO. HOWEVER, BRAZIL, WHICH DOES NOT ALLOW DIVORCE, DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE COUPLE'S BOLIVIAN MARRIAGE. END FYI).

4. CONGEN ATTEMPTING TO CONTACT MS. SANTISTEVAM DISCREETLY AGAIN TO ASCERTAIN STATUS OF GOB INVESTIGATION AND CHARGES PENDING AGAINST KONDER AND WILL REPORT RESULTS THAT CONSULTATION. WE INTEND SUGGEST TO HER THAT KONDER SEEK ADVICE FROM US IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES IN NY CONCERNING HIS DESIRE TO REMAIN IN US.

5. REQUEST EMBASSY ALERT DEPTS. OF STATE AND JUSTICE TO THIS REPORT OF KONDER'S PRESENCE IN US. ALSO REQUEST CONGEN BE KEPT APPRAISED OF RESULTS ANY CONSULTATION BETWEEN KONDER AND US AUTHORITIES. CHAPIN UNQTE.  
CRIMMINS

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